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FLEET FACT AND FANCY

The
Servicemen's
Column

By FRANK HOGAN

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CPYRGHT

ENDS CAREER—Cdr. John E. Nichols, a former white hat who was the only radioman aboard the battleship Arizona to survive the Japanese attack, has packed away his uniforms.

His recent retirement ended a 30-year naval career that began at the Naval Training Center here, took him to Brazil, Alaska, Hawaii and many U.S. cities, and concluded with duty as executive officer of the Naval Communications Station in Chollas Heights.

He lives with his wife, Lileth, at 2594 Calvin Lane, El Cajon.

Nichols enlisted in 1935 and was assigned to the Arizona after completing communications school here. After the Pearl Harbor attack, he attended Radio Material School, Washington, D.C., and was kept there as an instructor. In 1943, then a chief radio technician, he was commissioned an ensign.

After setting up several reserve medals and ribbons.

Radio material schools in this country, Nichols was sent to Rio de Janeiro where he was electronics advisor to the Brazilian navy for three years.

Subsequent duty was aboard ships and ashore, including a special assignment with the Central Intelligence Agency.

His decorations include four Navy Secretary Commendations and the Brazilian Legion of Merit.



CDR. JOHN E. NICHOLS